



October 1, 2004



## **Pawtucket man is sentenced for illegally possessing firearms**

A federal judge has sentenced **Albert Robertson**, 32, of Pawtucket, to 84 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of firearms. ATF Task Force agents and police officers arrested Robertson in Providence in May after he traded money and cocaine for two handguns.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In July, Robertson pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that the government had proof that, on May 10, Robertson met with another individual outside the Bonanza bus station in Providence and gave that individual \$200 and a quantity of cocaine in exchange for two handguns. A team of ATF Task Force agents, Providence Police and Pawtucket Police, who had monitored the transaction, stopped Robertson's van as he was leaving the bus station parking lot and arrested him.

Robertson, of 64 South Union Street, Pawtucket, has been detained at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, since his arrest.

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The **ATF Firearms Trafficking and Violent Crimes Task Force, Pawtucket Police,** and **Providence Police** investigated the case. Investigators from **Providence Police, Warwick Police, Rhode Island State Police,** and the **Rhode Island Attorney General's Office** are assigned to the ATF task force. The **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** provided assistance in the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dambruch prosecuted the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 500 years in federal prison.

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